



CRB Network News

A Quarterly Publication of
the Citizen Review Board Program

Spring 2006

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

*By Kelly Merrick, CRB Volunteer
Resource Coordinator*

Many CRB members will remember the celebration and recognition of the Citizen Review Board's 20th Anniversary at our conference last November. This April, the CRB recognizes the 20th anniversary of National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Many local communities in Oregon will be focusing on what citizens can do to prevent child abuse and neglect. This presents an ideal opportunity for CRB volunteers to talk with neighbors and members of their community about CRB reviews, and our advocacy efforts. Who knows? It might provide an opportunity for you to recruit a new board member! Here are some quick facts about Oregon's children which you might be able to use as talking points:

- Number of children who were victims of abuse and neglect **9,228**
- Number of children in foster care **9,101**
- Number of children adopted from foster care **1,115**
- Number of grandparents raising their grandchildren **25,668**
- Number of children without health insurance **106,000**

- Percent of two year olds who are not fully immunized **30.0%**
- Number of juveniles arrested **24,840**
- Number of children and teens in juvenile or adult correctional facilities **1,704**

If that doesn't get your neighbor's attention, then perhaps this will - **a child in Oregon is abused or neglected every 57 minutes!**

In 2005, CRB volunteers conducted 7,173 reviews involving 8,820 children and youth offenders. During these reviews, 21,278 legal/interested parties provided input on planning for children and families. Board members donated 80,000 hours to conduct reviews of children and youth in out of home placements.

If you would like to know more information on the state of America's children, go to www.childrensdefense.org.

The CRB is recruiting for additional volunteers. Some reimbursement related to costs incurred with volunteering (day-care, mileage, etc.) may be reimbursed based on eligibility requirements. For a volunteer packet, contact Kelly Merrick, CRB Volunteer Coordinator at (503) 731-4578.

Welcome, New CRB Members!

Please join us in welcoming new volunteers who have joined the CRB in the last quarter.



Sandra Coulter	Multnomah
Barbara Townsend	Polk
David Falconer	Polk
James Laviletta	Polk
Margie Laviletta	Polk
Katherine Warren	Union

Patricia Brisbois	Clackamas
Shirley Davis	Clackamas
Marian Rogers	Coos
Raymond Kimball	Coos
John Rhetts	Deschutes
Allyson Pate	Hood River
Elaine Betts	Hood River
Rick Eggers	Hood River
Carol Neil	Jackson
Cassandra Christanti	Jackson
Linda Hildebrand	Jackson
Reine Gravier	Jackson
Jocelyn Richardson	Josephine
Brian Fitzgerald	Klamath
Kenneth Muller	Klamath
Virginia Landon	Klamath
Norton Cabell	Lane
James Mosier	Malheur
Adrian Daniel	Marion
Anita Zahniser	Marion
Anona Hamilton	Marion
David Ellis	Marion
Diana Haney	Marion
Dona Starkey	Marion
Eileen Simmons	Marion
Florence Carter	Marion
Joel Woodman	Marion
Judith Gardner	Marion
Linda Farrington	Marion
Linda Schellenberg	Marion
Lori Tipton	Marion
Louisa Darensburg	Marion
MaryLynne Taylor	Marion
Teresa Campbell	Marion
Trudy Logan	Marion
Bobette Lovgren	Morrow

A Message for CRB Volunteers -

During the month of April, the spirit of volunteerism is honored throughout the nation. In Oregon, we have some of the most dedicated, skilled volunteers in the country - Citizen Review Board members. There are not enough words to describe our heartfelt thanks for all that you do. We feel so privileged to work with you side by side as you tirelessly make a difference in the lives of Oregon's children. Without your time, talents, and efforts there would be no Citizen Review Board program. You have the skills and knowledge to be part of the solution in meeting the needs of children and families involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems within your community. You are bold in your scrutiny of the system and you are a powerful advocacy force - a force no amount of money could buy. You may never know the impact you have had on a child. But, we know that you do make an impact and we want to thank you on behalf of every child whose case you have reviewed.

Sincerely, CRB Staff

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SAC Corner

Submitted by Ellen Hyman, SAC Vice Chair

We're reviving a section of the newsletter that has been MIA (missing in action) for a while! Lots of activity (and from my perspective, exciting and energizing activity) happening at the SAC to share with the whole membership now and in the future!

Raise your hand if you know what SAC is. Extra credit if you know your SAC representative! SAC is the State Advisory Council of the Oregon Citizen Review Board. SAC's purpose is to meet with the CRB administration and advise them as to "policy, budget, program, and any other issues as may be appropriate; to discuss the business of local boards; and to facilitate communication between CRB members and CRB administration.

Oregon has twenty-seven judicial districts. Judicial districts with fewer than two boards are combined with another district, resulting in twenty-one judicial representatives. SAC also may have up to seven members-at-large who are elected by the SAC membership. We meet quarterly throughout the state. We serve on committees with CRB staff and administration working to achieve the CRB vision and mission. We meet with legislators and testify before committees on legislation related to children in foster care.

Oregon's CRB recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. Metaphorically, we've come of age and are poised to take this program into "adulthood" equipped with the skills we need to be successful, functioning, and contributing. We continue to improve ourselves and our relationships with our partners as we work to make sure that each child in foster care achieves timely permanency and has his/her needs met.

We've accomplished great things together:

- Senate Bill 689 changed the face of child welfare in Oregon;
- House Bill 2787 established Family Decision Meetings;
- We led the effort to convene the Adoption Task Force to decrease the time it takes to finalize adoptions;
- We developed Reasonable and Active Efforts Principles and Expectations with the Department of Human Services (DHS) and Oregon Tribes;
- We led the effort to develop policy requiring service agreements;
- We implemented a project to monitor caseworker contact with parents, children, and caregivers; and
- We've provided more than 5,000 books to children in foster care to date.

We strive for excellence and our work is not done!

At SAC, we share our successes and our concerns about how to make the system work more effectively. As unique as each county is, the majority of issues that affect us as we do reviews cut across borders. As a SAC member, I see my role as one of keeping the lines of communication open between what's happening at the local level, with my fellow SAC members, and the CRB administration.

We've just completed the new CRB Strategic Plan for 2005-2007. This biennial process begins with each court or program of the Judicial Department creating objectives and strategies that address each goal area. These goals were established in what's called "Justice 2020: A Vision for Oregon Courts". The six major areas follow:

(Continued on page 4)

1. Access: Ensure Access to Court Services for All People
2. Administration: Make Courts Work for People (2 parts)
3. Dispute Resolution: Help People Choose the Best Way to Resolve Disputes
4. Partnership: Build Strong Partnerships with Local Communities to Ensure Public Safety and Quality of Life
5. Trust and Confidence: To Earn the Public’s Trust and Confidence

The SAC is an excellent way to expand your knowledge of the CRB program, and get more involved. Current vacant judicial district representatives include:

- Baker/Malheur Counties
- Clatsop/Columbia/Tillamook Counties
- Coos/Curry Counties
- Deschutes County

If you are interested in filling the judicial district representative position for your district, please contact your CRB Field Manager or Kelly Merrick, CRB Volunteer Resource Coordinator for more information.

CRB has created objectives and strategies under each goal. SAC has adopted two objectives as part of our long-term agenda. One of the administration goal objectives is to “increase the overall effectiveness and quality of CRB members.” This is an “internal” issue and has two components: being effective at reviews and recruitment. We will look at ways to accomplish this. What training do we need and how will we get it? How will we evaluate ourselves? How do we improve our recruitment of new board members?

The second is the Dispute Resolution objective to “Increase timely permanency for children.” This is an “external” issue. How do we monitor caseworker contact? What can we do to shorten the time children need to be in a foster care placement? How can we monitor and improve visitation between parents and children?

At the April SAC meeting, we will create three subcommittees to look at these objectives and strategies. The committee will develop actions to address the strategies. If you are interested in participating on any of these committees, (and I sincerely hope some of you are) please contact me at (541) 461-5400 or by e-mail at elly47@comcast.net. I will connect you to the appropriate chairperson.

CRB Training Hours (Reported to Date)

COUNTY	HOURS REPORTED
Baker	11
Benton	8
Clackamas	30
Douglas	38
Klamath	26
Lane	3
Linn	8
Morrow	14
Multnomah	34
Umatilla	29.5
Union	10
Wallowa	3
Wasco	9
Washington	1

CRB Members are mandated to receive a minimum of eight hours of training annually. Volunteers can report any training they receive throughout the year through the “Education Credit Form” on the CRB website at www.ojd.state.or.us/crb , or you can report them to your CRB Field Manager who will enter the hours

OYA Updates -

*Submitted by Dave Smith,
CRB Field Manager*

During the months of May and June, CRB Field Managers will be conducting a customer satisfaction survey of board members who review Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) cases. The survey was developed by the Oregon Youth Authority. The Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) instructed OYA and other state agencies to incorporate the results of a "Customer Service Satisfaction" survey in their 2007-09 budgets and in their annual performance progress reports due in September 2006. OYA chose CRB as the first customer to be surveyed; youth and families will be surveyed by OYA in the near future.

The survey is designed to collect information about how well OYA provides service to the CRB as described in the statewide OYA/CRB Intergovernmental Agreement and includes customer service satisfaction questions required by the Department of Administrative Services. The surveys will also help identify areas for future training. Board members and Field Managers will be asked to complete a survey for each delinquency case selected for review. There will also be a general demographic survey to be completed by each board member and Field Manager. It is expected that the survey will take between five and ten minutes to complete. The Field Manager will be allowing time between cases to complete the survey document. Each board will need to complete the survey at one meeting only; the plan is for all boards which review OYA cases to be surveyed during the months of May and June.

Here are some quick facts and figures relevant to youth in the custody of the Oregon Youth Authority:

Supervision in the Community (January 2006)	
Youth on Parole	477
Youth on Probation	657
Total	1,134

Close Custody Capacity (January 2006)	
Secure Facilities	
MacLaren YCF	345
Hillcrest YCF	180
North Coast YCF	25
Rogue Valley YCF	100
Eastern Oregon YCF	25
Tillamook YCF	50
Transition Programs	
River Bend Facility	50
Camp Tillamook	25
Camp Florence	25
Corvallis House	25
Total	850

OYA Offender Profile

Criminal Activity	Social Characteristics
2% Homicide Related	82% Used Drugs/Alcohol
36% Sex Offense	59% Diagnosed Mental Health
14% Person Other	9% Past Suicidal Behavior
2% Arson	31% Sexually Abused
2% Weapon	64% Special Education
31% Property Crimes	48% Parents Convicted
2% Criminal Other	19% Already Parents
1% Public Order Other	72% Deficit in School Credits
5% Substance/Alcohol	90% Committed at least one
5% Robbery	Felony Crime
100%	27% Prior Weapon Charge

Union County CRB Member Honored As Man of the Year

*Submitted by Toni Sloan, CRB Field
Manager*

Recently, **Mary Ann Miesner**, CRB Member from Union County, surprised one of her fellow board members by successfully nominating him as the 2006 Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year.

Merle Comfort, CRB Member since 1999, was presented the award at a recent banquet in February. In Mary Ann's letter to the Chamber, she cited some of Merle's many accomplishments and commitments to civic engagement, which include the following:

- ★ Eastern Oregon University Volunteer Athletic Trainer
- ★ La Grande Nazarene Church - Board of Directors, Volunteer Youth Pastor, Sound System Manager
- ★ United Way Board of Directors
- ★ Grand Ronde Child Center - Past President, Vice President
- ★ La Grande School Board - Past Chairman, Vice Chairman
- ★ La Grande School District Budget Committee
- ★ Union County 24-Hour Relay, Co-Director
- ★ Citizen Review Board member from 1999-present

Mary Ann's letter goes on to state "As shown above, Merle has made a tremendous impact on our community for more than 25 years" and "his dedication to youth and family organizations/activities is evident from his long-term involvement. Because we have men like Merle Comfort living, working, volunteering, and caring about our children and families, his commitment to improve our community must not go unnoticed or unappreciated. In my opinion, we have definitely found the Chamber of Commerce's 2006 Man of the Year."

Way to go, Merle! Congratulations! And many thanks to Mary Ann Miesner for her nomination!



Book Review "Raising Cain"

*Submitted by Frank Rasmussen, CRB
Baker County*

The book "*Raising Cain*", by Dan Kindlon and Michael Thompson, and the book "*The Mind of Boys*" by Michael Gurian was featured in the January 30th issue of Newsweek magazine. These books focus on the topic of why boys fall behind in school and what needs to be done about it.

The book *Raising Cain*, discusses the need for boys to have emotional literacy. Boys are raised to be stoic, not to be in touch with their feelings and emotions, and not to show fear. Boys are naturally more energetic than girls and the "typical" school is not designed to accommodate boys.

According to the book, prior to age 12 girl's brains develop more rapidly. Boys then fall behind in school at a younger age. By age 12, the brains of boys and girls develop at an even pace, but at this point the boys are already further behind in school.

Girls and boys, until the age of 10, have an equal amount of testosterone. After age 10, boys testosterone increases. When boys compete with others and win, their testosterone increases and when they lose, the testosterone decreases. The book states that many boys play video games rather than interact with others because if they lose to an object their testosterone does not increase or decrease.

Another book recommended, that discussed similar topics, is titled Emotional Intelligence by Daniel Goldman.



Jackson County new CRB members at a swearing in ceremony include: (left to right) Reine Gravier, Cassandra Christanti, Judge Lorenzo Mejia, and Linda Hildebrand.

National Foster Care Month - May 2006

By Shary Mason, CRB Program Manager

May is National Foster Care Month. I encourage Citizen Review Board staff and volunteers to take this opportunity to thank all of the wonderful foster parents for the work they do caring for Oregon's children and families. By opening their homes and sharing their heart, they offer help to children and families in crisis.

They not only provide temporary homes, safety and nurturing to our children, but also help children safely reunite with their birth families. And, when reunification is not possible, many of them choose to adopt the children who have been placed in their homes, offering them the permanency and stability they may never have otherwise known.

Their commitment leaves an indelible mark on generations to come. They are helping to end cycles of neglect, abuse and/or drug addiction and are often helping a child to be the first in his or her family to finish high school or even go to college. Children leave their homes knowing there are many positive paths available to them in life.

Often foster parents do not receive the gratitude or recognition their efforts truly deserve. Tell them at your reviews, write a letter to the editor, send them a card, let them know that we appreciate all that they do and want them to know that they are forever changing children's lives. Thank them for sharing their family and their home, their love, their encouragement and their help to change a lifetime for children and families in Oregon.



Other Happenings with CRB

As part of a local community outreach effort, the Citizen Review Board recently participated in a Career Fair in Multnomah County sponsored by the Urban League of Portland. Shary Mason, Kelly Robison, Kelly Merrick, and CRB Volunteer Robin Holmes utilized the opportunity to stress volunteering as a means to build job skills.



Featured left to right are: Robin Holmes, CRB; Kelly Merrick, CRB; Layla Zand, Washington County Courts; and Gina O'Brien, Multnomah County Courts.



Jocelyn Richardson, CRB Josephine County, as she is sworn in by Judge Michael Newman

Mark Your Calendars!

The CRB Annual Education Conference will be held November 3-4, 2006 in Sunriver, Oregon. Don't forget to hold these dates open for this excellent opportunity for CRB training!

I AM METH - Anonymous

I'm more costly than diamonds, more precious than gold, the sorrow I bring is a sight to behold.
If you need me, remember I'm easily found, I live all around you - in schools and in town.
I live with the rich, I live with the poor, I live down the street, and maybe next door.
I'm made in a lab, but not like you think, I can easily be made under the kitchen sink.
In your child's closet, and even in the woods, if this scares you to death, it certainly should.
I have many names, but there's one you know best, I'm sure you've heard of me - my name is crystal meth.
My power is awesome, try me you'll see, but if you do, you may never break free.
Just try me once and I might let you go, but try me twice, and I'll own your soul.
When I possess you, you'll steal and you'll lie, you'll do what you have to-just to get high.
The crimes you'll commit for my narcotic charms will be worth the pleasure you'll feel in your arms.
You'll lie to your mother. You'll steal from your dad. When you see their tears, you should feel sad.
But you'll forget your morals and how you were raised, I'll be your conscience, I'll teach you my ways.
I take kids from parents, and parents from kids. I turn people from God, and separate friends.
I'll take everything from you, your looks and your pride, I'll be with you always, right by your side.
You'll give up everything-your family, your home, your friends, your money, and then be alone.
I'll take and I'll take till you've nothing more to give. When I'm finished with you, you'll be lucky to live.
If you try me be warned - this is no game. If I'm given the chance, I'll drive you insane.
I'll ravish your body and control your mind, I'll own you completely, your soul will be mine.
You could have said no, and just walked away, If you could live that day over, now what would you say?
I'll be your master and you'll be my slave, I'll even go with you when you go to your grave.
Now that you've met me, what will you do? Will you try me or not? It's all up to you.
I can bring you more misery than words can tell - Come take my hand, let me lead you to Hell.

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